

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21-40 are added. The following is the status of the above-captioned application as amended.

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (New). A secreted polypeptide which has protease activity, which polypeptide comprises at least three non-polar or uncharged polar amino acids within the last four amino acids of the C-terminus of the polypeptide, and which polypeptide:

- (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45;
- (b) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 31; SEQ ID NO: 32; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 40; or SEQ ID NO: 44;
- (c) comprises a mature part which is a variant of the mature part of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45 comprising a substitution, deletion, extension, and/or insertion of one or more amino acids; or
- (d) is a fragment of (a), (b), (c), or (d).

Claim 22 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21, which is a wildtype polypeptide, an artificial variant of a wildtype polypeptide said variant having one or more amino-acid(s) added to the C-terminus as compared to the wildtype, a shuffled polypeptide, or a protein-engineered polypeptide.

Claim 23 (New). The polypeptide of claim 22, wherein the one or more added amino acid(s) is (are) non-polar or uncharged.

Claim 24 (New). The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the one or more added amino acid(s) is one or more of Q, S, V, A, or P.

Claim 25 (New). The polypeptide of claim 22, wherein the one or more added amino acids are selected from the group consisting of: QSHVQSAP, QSAP, QP, TL, TT, QL, TP, LP, TI, IQ, QP, PI, LT, TQ, IT, QQ, and PQ.

Claim 26 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21 which when expressed and before maturation comprises a heterologous pro-region from a different protease.

Claim 27 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21 which when expressed and before maturation comprises a heterologous secretion signal-peptide which is cleaved from the polypeptide when the polypeptide is secreted.

Claims 28 (New). The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein the heterologous secretion signal peptide comprises an amino acid sequence having a sequence identity of at least 70% with the amino acid sequence encoded by polynucleotides 1 – 81 of SEQ ID NO: 2, or SEQ ID NO: 44.

Claim 29 (New). An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide as defined in claim 21.

Claim 30 (New). A recombinant expression vector or polynucleotide construct comprising a polynucleotide as defined in claim 29.

Claims 31 (New). A recombinant host cell comprising a polynucleotide as defined in claim 29.

Claim 32 (New). The recombinant host cell of claim 31 which is a *Bacillus* cell.

Claim 33 (New). A transgenic plant, or plant part, comprising a polynucleotide as defined in claim 29, or an expression vector or polynucleotide construct as defined in claim 30.

Claim 34 (New). A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising cultivating a recombinant host cell as defined in claim 31 to produce a supernatant comprising the polypeptide.

Claim 35 (New). An animal feed additive comprising at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 21; and

- (a) at least one fat-soluble vitamin, and/or
- (b) at least one water-soluble vitamin, and/or
- (c) at least one trace mineral.

Claim 36 (New). An animal feed composition having a crude protein content of 50 to 800 g/kg and comprising at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 21.

Claim 37 (New). A composition comprising at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 21, together with at least one other enzyme selected from amongst phytase; xylanase; galactanase; alpha-galactosidase; protease; phospholipase A1; phospholipase A2; lysophospholipase; phospholipase C; phospholipase D; and/or beta-glucanase.

Claim 38 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21, which polypeptide comprises at least three non-polar or uncharged polar amino acids within the last four amino acids of the C-terminus of the polypeptide, and which polypeptide:

- (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45; or
- (b) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 31; SEQ ID NO: 32; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 40; or SEQ ID NO: 44.

Claim 39 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21, which polypeptide comprises at least three non-polar or uncharged polar amino acids within the last four amino acids of the C-terminus of the polypeptide, and which polypeptide:

- (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45; or
- (b) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 31; SEQ ID NO: 32; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 40; or SEQ ID NO: 44.

Claim 40 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21, which polypeptide comprises at least three non-polar or uncharged polar amino acids within the last four amino acids of the C-terminus of the polypeptide, and which polypeptide:

- (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45; or
- (b) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 31; SEQ ID NO: 32; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 40; or SEQ ID NO: 44.